

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 779

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Roy F. Bess, Jr. of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Roy F. Bess, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Roy Bess was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities, and whose every act was of the highest morality and characterized by complete respect for the law; and

WHEREAS, born on January 29, 1926, in Nashville, Roy Frank Bess, Jr. was the son of Roy Frank Bess and Jeanette Day Bess and was raised in the Woodbine area of Davidson County where he attended Central High School; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school in 1943, Mr. Bess entered the United States Navy to proudly serve his country during World War II and saw action in the South Pacific aboard the USS Valeria; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving military service, Mr. Bess embarked on a storied thirty-five year career with the State of Tennessee that began on June 21, 1946 as a Junior Statistical Aide with the Department of Insurance and Banking; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, he was named a Field Examiner with the Company Examinations Section and was later promoted to Chief Examiner before being named Director of Insurance in 1966, in which capacity he was responsible for the direction and supervision of the entire division; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Director of Insurance, Mr. Bess was named Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance, which position he would hold

until he took his well-deserved retirement in 1983, having serving under seven governors in administrations headed by both major political parties; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his profession, Roy Bess was a driving force in the organization of the Society of Financial Examiners, serving as a charter member of the board of directors, president, and board member, and was instrumental in the group gaining national recognition; and

WHEREAS, during his career with the Department of Commerce and Insurance, Mr. Bess participated in a number of important National Association of Insurance Commissioners studies and work groups and he trained and inspired generations of department staff; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bess had a remarkable record of public service, nationally recognized for his leadership in the regulation of insurance and the protection of insurance consumers; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving state government, Roy Bess served as Vice President of Governmental Affairs for Unum Provident Companies until 1999; and

WHEREAS, his lifetime of achievements in the insurance industry was most appropriately recognized in 2001 with his induction into the Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bess was an active and devout member of Belle Meade United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a member of the Oxford Sunday School Class; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Roy Bess enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife of forty-five years, Myra, and was the proud parent of Linda Frances Styskal, Larry Craig Bess, and Richard Craig Bess, and adoring grandfather of Jennifer Jean Styskal, Kimberly Catherine Styskal, and Christopher George Styskal; and

WHEREAS, Roy F. Bess, Jr. leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Roy F. Bess, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Bess.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.